(b) the amount realised in foreign exchange for such exports in 1992-93;

(c) whether there has been any price manipulation by foreign buyers in 1992-93; and

(d) what safeguards Government propose to extent to this thrust area of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Information is as under :

Quantity : 191186 Tonnes

Value : Rs. 1668.17 crores

Source : MPEDA, Kochi.

(c) Government has not received any such reports.

(d) The export prices are determined by the global demand and supply and the Government do not intend to intervene directly in the market.

Curbs on Foreign Tours of Officials for Trade Promotion

710. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has advised the ITPO (Indian Trade Promotion Organisation) to go slow on sending senior officers on foreign tours;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairman and other senior officers routinely attend inauguration of all foreign fairs abroad, where India is only a routine participant;

(c) what were the contentions set by Chairman TFAI in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that good conventions raising the dignity of nation are followed in the matter of foreign visits by senior officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Chairman of erstwhile Trade Fair Authority of India used to visit such fairs where his presence was considered to be necessary in the interest of the Government and the Organisation.

(d) All the visits of Chairman and Managing Director are approved by the Government keeping in view all relevant factors.

Cultivation of Tea in Orissa

711. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the traditional and non-traditional States growing tea which are proposed to be assisted in tea growing in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Orissa has shown significant tea plantation in non-traditional areas; and

(c) what are the details of steps being taken towards cultivation of tea, creation of more tea gardens, special assistance to tea growers and diversification of areas under tea cultivation in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Major traditional tea growing States are Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Non-traditional States where tea cultivation has been taken up are Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Orissa. Financial assistance is provided by the Tea Board for development of both traditional and non-traditional areas.

(b) A new plantation in an area of 213 hectares in the Keonjhar district of Orissa has so far been set up.

(c) In order to encourage setting up of tea plantations in non-traditional areas, the Tea Board has been operating New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for providing long term loan and capital subsidy to the planters. Special assistance by way of capital grant is also provided for setting up of nucleus nurseries in non-traditional areas. Grant is also provided towards consultancy fees for preparation of technically feasible and financially viable project reports for setting up of new plantations in the non-traditional area.

Restructuring of foreign trade offices

712. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to restructure the Foreign Trade Offices under his Ministry;

(b) what are the details of trade offices under his Ministry in foreign countries and the amount of foreign exchange spent on them country-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to re structure the policy towards the foreign offices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Details of Trade Offices under this Ministry in foreign countries and the amount of foreign exchange spent on them country-wise are given in the statement attached. [*See* below]

(c) It is the policy of the Government to enhance continuously the commercial outlook and orientation of our foreign traditional area.

Statement

Restructure of Foreign Offices

Name of Trade Offices	Country	Amount
1	2	3
1. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	(i) Frankfurt	Rs.233.72 Lakhs
	(ii) London	Rs.171.73 Lakhs
	(iii) Moscow	Rs. 51.72 Lakhs
	(iv) New York	Rs.322.97 Lakhs
	(v) Hong Kong	Rs. 70.67 Lakhs
	(vi) Singapore	Rs.152.93 lakhs
	(vii) Melbourne	Rs. 64.86 Lakhs
	(viii) Harare	Rs. 29.56 Lakhs